



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING - REVISED

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

2014-0332 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of November 24, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Frink, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2014-0004 Pending Litigation (2014 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger and Town Attorney Eric Callahan go into executive session at 6:05 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (6) (B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations related to pending litigation and/or pending claims concerning Green Mountain Pipeline Services and Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. and 697 Noank Road, Mystic (Groton), Connecticut.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 6:46 p.m.

2012-0050 Potential Disposition of William Seely School Property

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, along with Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger and Town Attorney Eric Callahan, go into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes sections 1-200(6)(D), 1-200 (6) (E) and 1-210 (b) (10), to discuss the negotiation and potential sale of the former Seely School Site and an attorney-client privileged document and legal advice related to the same.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:28 p.m.

2014-0263 Mystic Indoor Sports - Request for Financial Incentive

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger provided an update on discussions with Mr. McCormack, who has submitted his final proposal for financial incentives. The Council had previously authorized a public hearing, which will be held on December 16th. The Council will receive a staff analysis at that time. The Town Manager review the request outlined in Mr. McCormack's letter.

2014-0331 Connecticut Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development Assessment Grant Program

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted the state's request that the Town Council pass a resolution authorizing the brownfield remediation grant agreement. The Town Manager noted the requirement for a negative pledge agreement and the purpose of the agreement.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Antipas asked if the grant is sufficient and if it would lead to additional work at the sites. The Town Manager explained that the sites will need to be cleaned up to dispose of the property. The intent of this grant is to do the evaluations so that potential buyers understand the issues. The assessments will not require the Town to clean up the properties.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0256 Procurement of USS Groton Sail and Planes

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger provided an update on the general overall effort to procure the USS Groton sail and planes. There is a steering committee chaired by the two Mayors and over time it is anticipated that more members will be added. A fundraising committee has been established. The Navy has provided a letter committing the pieces of the submarine to the Town. The Steering Committee is looking at a number of sites and had identified the top four or five. The final site will depend on the extent of project. The next meeting will be in mid-January to review site selection criteria. The Town Manager reviewed some of the potential sites. The Navy is not interested in providing any financial assistance for this type of project and it is unknown if funds are available from other federal or state sources.

2014-0012 Meeting with State Legislators (2014 Standing Referral)

Discussed

The Town Manager will be meeting with the two new State Representatives on December 17th. A meeting of the legislators, the Town Council, and Board of Education has been proposed for January. The Town Manager would like to share with the representatives topics for the upcoming meeting and Councilors were asked to forward their requests to the Town Manager prior to December 17th.

2014-0286 Implementation of Police Study Recommendations

Discussed

Discussion followed on meeting with the City and Groton Long Point and the purpose of inviting Tom Wilson from PERF to make a presentation for the Council. After significant discussion, the Town Manager summarized that the Council would like to 1) continue discussions with the City that were started last May, and 2) let the City and Groton Long Point know that Mr. Wilson is coming back in January and ask if they have any questions/concerns that can be forwarded to Mr. Wilson so that he can be prepared to respond.

The Town Manager suggested that the intent is not to have Mr. Wilson do additional work, but to explain the study that has already been done. The value of having Mr. Wilson come back is to answer the Town Council's questions so that Councilors understand the study and the methodology. The Town Manager reiterated that it is the Town's study and all three departments were able to participate. Mr. Wilson received information from the three entities to varying degrees.

It was suggested that the Town Council can meet with the City and Groton Long Point beforehand to identify questions if necessary. DVDs of the first police study presentation are available for Councilors to watch.

2014-0312 School Facilities Initiative Update

Discussed

The School Facilities Initiative Task Force is meeting on Thursday, December 11th to provide a briefing on what has transpired to date and where they are going. The Town Council, RTM, Board of Education, and Permanent School Building Committee have been invited to the meeting.

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The consensus of Councilors was to cancel the December 16th Finance Committee meeting, the December 23rd Committee of the Whole meeting, and the January 6th Town Council meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.